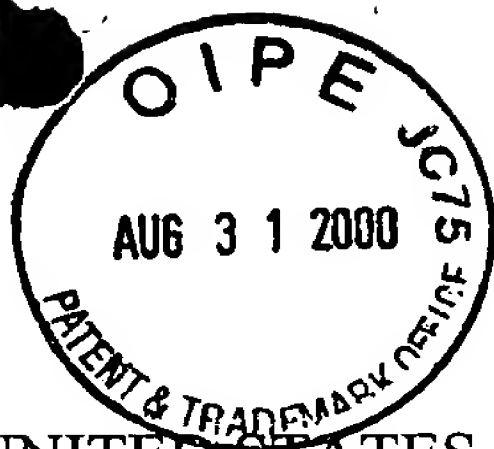


7063-0001-0



22/B
SB
9/18/00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

RENATA. M. A. C. VESELY ET AL

: EXAMINER: MINNIFIELD

SERIAL NO.: 08/813,776

:

FILED: MARCH 7, 1997

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1645

FOR: STRAINS OF BACTERIA AND
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION
CONTAINING ONE OR MORE OF
SUCH STRAINS AND USE OF SAME FOR
PREVENTING AND TREATING DISEASES
ASSOCIATED WITH OR CAUSED BY
ALTERED METABOLISM OF BILE ACIDS

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated March 7, 2000, Applicants respectfully
request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following
amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

~~--37.~~ (Amended) A biologically pure gram-positive bacteria strain characterized by
exhibiting:

(a) a 7 α -dehydroxylase activity of less than 50%, and

(b) a bile acid deconjugation activity of less than 50%, and

34

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